

# Congregational Connection



## Pastor's Column

*Behold, I am about to do a new thing, can you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:10*

"New things" are happening with our church and in our community. Have you noticed? Our M&O and Deacons have responded generously to people in need in our country who have been devastated by the hurricane wreckages of Texas, Florida, the Caribbean, and Puerto Rico. Through social media, we have invited the prayers of our Weymouth community when tragedies hit, so that more and more people see that our church cares not only for those who come within our walls, but those those beyond our walls, even if all they know of church right now is on local social media sites. Donna and I took to the streets with other faith leaders after Charlottesville to Stand for Love in Boston.

Each month, more and more people are connecting with us via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter around important spiritual topics. Every person who is a millennial or younger who is part of our church is on these sites daily, as are Weymouth civic and nonprofit community leaders. More of our church members are getting involved online. We have almost 400 followers on Facebook (big jump this year), 101 followers on Instagram. 249 instagram posts, most since summer with daily inspirations. My pastor twitter account has 240 followers and our church twitter is growing. Our website is up to date. Sara, Victor and I fill the website with designs, blogs, sermons, music recordings, new photos. People in Weymouth and the South Shore know more and more about us, preparing the seeds for us to establish enriched, connective, in person relationships with them.

Our Jackson Square Community is growing. Victor and Kerry represent us at the JS business meetings as we find ways to "dream" together. Many of us support their shops and encourage the shopkeepers, visiting these places, even holding our meetings there.

We just blessed our backpacks in the church for members, while also blessing backpacks for kids and youth of the Weymouth Youth and Family Services for which M&O generously helped us donate. M&O continues to help us be the hands of Christ that heals and the eyes of Christ to perceive human needs.

Stewardship is preparing not only for a blessed stewardship campaign for our church, but is now working with the conference to find news ways of encouraging generosity, including with Giving Tuesday.

Victor and the music committee are not only giving a platform with MSH to renowned musicians nationwide, but giving a hand to local musicians and encouraging their work. Victor and I are forging new relationships in Weymouth and the South Shore with music lovers and supporters, connecting with music teachers in the local schools and with owners of other venues who love and support

musicians in Weymouth and beyond too. We are getting out there, knowing that flyers are no longer enough but personal invitation is everything.

The trustees spruced up our building on the outside beautifully and are also taking care of the inside, to help us convey welcome, inspiration and care. We can't wait for those angels who went for a touch up to come back and grace our sanctuary where miracles happen.

Meanwhile, Samantha Hogan, Kerry Mortland and the Church School have filled our halls with creativity and beautiful art. The church school children and youth continue to grow in their faith and literally bless us in worship (with their hands outstretched and echo prayers). Several of them established a prayer wall for the whole South Shore at Fore River Bridge, enabling many others to pray with us and showing forth our commitment to environmental justice.

This past Spring, Summer and now into the Fall, I tried my best to represent the vitality, commitment, and care of our church by meeting people in and around Weymouth. I have established relationships with our civic leaders, including council members, the mayor and Town Hall staff, Weymouth Parks and Rec, local clergy, our local Senator and Representative, Veterans Council, Weymouth Health and Human Services, and Weymouth first responders. Bob Christoff and I have gone to many different important town meetings. I have led vigils, opening blessings and Veterans events. I encourage and cheer on our leaders for the proliferation of improvements and grants growing in Weymouth. Weymouth is going through a Renaissance period of new hope and we are part of it. I am now on planning committees with the Weymouth Substance Abuse Prevention group and the Fore River Families against the Compressor Station. Through these groups, I have had the privilege of meeting truly extraordinary local environmental justice leaders and courageous parents who have lost children from opioid addiction and are leading the town to heal and find solutions. I am also offering support to parents of kids lost to suicide locally. I started a summer weekly prayer circle at the unnamed park near Fore River that was successful and connected with local clergy. After Charlottesville, I started the South Shore Interfaith Movement with local clergy, in its infancy stage but growing.

Many of you have gone on a mission with me to get to know our incredible neighbors and offer an outstretched hand of gratitude and friendship, whether they are in Jackson Square or at shops, restaurants and breweries in Weymouth and Hingham. It's a fun part of getting to know our neighbors. Of course we have loved our neighbors at Gillette Stadium, too!

Our vitality team is bustling with new ideas as we meet in new places outside of our walls to brainstorm about member/guest gatherings and plan ways be contributors to town events. It is exciting that we will be present at two Fall Festivals in October. Victor is leading a Jackson Square bicyclist group. Colleen is having a family fun photo event in November. We are planning international

dinner club and a wellness series with members and guests. We are working to be present at park renovation ceremonies and holiday town events.

Thank you one and all for new life. Through all of the many new relationships our church is developing, let us trust that God is "about to do a new thing, can we not perceive it." We are in a different age now culturally where church is happening more and more when we extend ourselves to "be the church" in our community. We are adapting to this change as trustingly as we can. Let us ask God to do the rest and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us. May Matthew 25 always be our motto as we follow and grow with Christ, loving our neighbor as ourselves. May we never lose hope because together, we can do all things in Christ, who strengthens us.



### From the Desk of the Deacons

The new church season kicked off in grand style with Rally Day on September 10th. The teachers and young people were all excited to be back in class. After worship we enjoyed a welcome back picnic luncheon. Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

A tailgate party was held at coffee hour on September 17th. In the spirit of the day, folks wore their Patriots gear and shared favorite snacks they would serve for a tailgate party. There was an abundance and wide variety of snack foods.

We are grateful that the North River Brass Ensemble will be joining us to provide a special arrangement of Martin Luther's most famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" in celebration of the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation.

Looking ahead -

October 1 - World Wide Communion  
Neighbors in Need offering

October 14 - Weymouth's Great Pumpkin Give-away- Church will have a booth

October 22 - Stewardship Campaign kick-off luncheon

October 29 - Reformation Sunday - New Member luncheon

November 5 - All Saints Day - Welcome New Members

There was an update and discussion regarding Growth & Vitality and the ideas that have come out of the meetings. One of the ideas is to hold meetings outside the church in the community. There are opportunities for the church to become involved in community events. Rev. Gretchen has embraced the community and become involved in a number of efforts. She would welcome the involvement of other members to share in this effort.

The Deacons - Donna Eliasson, Nancy Haley, Tara Haley, Bettyanne Lane, Ray Matusiewicz, Cheryl McMillan



### From the Trustees

I know everyone is interested in the progress of the window restoration project. I was somewhat dismayed when I got a call in July from our contact at Stained Glass Resources saying he was leaving the company. He had been our main point of contact since we first started about doing the project. After I swallowed hard, he told me that he and his wife had decided that now was the time for the two of them to go off on a life adventure, accordingly they had both quit their jobs, sold their house, bought an RV and decided to drive to Ecuador! I started to gasp about then as I was thinking we just gave our windows and part payment to this company and this guy is on his way to South America. Swell.

Not to worry. I have subsequently spoken to Fred Shea, the president of the company, and I am once again confident that our precious windows are in good hands. They are in the process of cleaning and examining our glass with a mind to replacing any fractured glass. He has invited us out to their studio in Hampden Massachusetts around the end of October to view the progress. He informs me that they can handle a group of 6-10 people easily, and only asks that we set up a date and time well in advance. He anticipates that our windows will be back before Winter, which would be fine with us. We'll have a signup sheet in the chapel for those who may be interested in going. More info as to date and time to follow.

Your Trustees

Bob Criswell, Curtis Ellett, Norm Fulton, John Holman, Tom Kosonen, Kathy Mosher, Tom Ritchie



### Notes from the Music Director

THANK YOU TO OUR MUSIC AT SANCTUARY HALL CREW --- This newsletter was published before Jake Armerding and Friends opened our 7th season, but there was lots of work behind the scenes to help make it as successful as can be.

A big thank-you to our Music Committee and those who baked and otherwise donated to this gala event, which would not be possible without the efforts of our social media expert, Pastor Gretchen, who has a knack for finding potential audiences and reaching out to them.

Mark your calendar for our next event, Duo Amie. Here's the rest of our schedule:

Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m. --- Duo Amie consists of Elysses Kuan, piano, and Julie Reimann, cello. They are rock stars of their respective instruments. This is a concert of classical music for people who think they hate classical music.

Sunday, Jan. 7, at 3 p.m. --- The annual Little Christmas in Jackson Square concert brings together singers and instrumentalists from throughout the region to raise money for the Weymouth Food Pantry.

Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. --- The Joyful Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir brings its 40-voice, multi-racial, multi-cultural, intergenerational talents to Music at Sanctuary Hall for the first time.

Saturday, March 10 at 8 p.m. --- Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, The Lindsays return with Celtic tunes and plenty of rock, jazz, and country.

Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m. --- The 55-piece Sharon Concert Band brings its powerhouse sound that includes Sousa marches, sounds of the Swing Era and music of the great horn bands of the 1960s and 1970s, such as Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Friday, May 4 at 8 p.m. --- The Southeastern Philharmonic, America's oldest community orchestra, which rehearses at East Weymouth Congregational Church, gives its annual program of popular classics and classic pop.

CHOIR REHEARALS HAVE RESUMED! --- It can be hard work, but it's also a joyous time of worship and fellowship at midweek. If you've thought of joining our senior choir, we meet at 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC! And anyone is welcome to just visit and listen at any time.

Victor DeRubeis, Director of Music  
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### Church School News

In September we held our Rally Day picnic and welcomed all of our Church School children and families back into the fold with Blessings of Backpacks and fellowship around the table with a feast prepared by the congregation. It was just one of our Blessed days to be together. Another special day that we should hold dear is the day that we welcomed 4 children into our midst that sought safety and refuge from the ravages of hurricane Irma. We showed kindness and loving care to these children and I hope they remember us as they go back to their homes in Florida. We will continue to pray for them and their families as they try to get their lives back to normal. We celebrated our love of Football with the Deacons during the "tailgate party" coffee hour. These are such special times to share with each other by having great food and lots of fun! The Patriots must have known that we were watching them because they pulled off a Hail Mary win just seconds before the end of the game. God Bless us and God Bless the Pats!

**Sunday School Reminder:** Please make sure that we have your child's completed registration form on file. If you did not fill one out then please ask for one before your child goes down to their class. Thank you for helping us to serve and teach your child . Every Sunday during class time with the children we take an offering that eventually will be donated to HEIFER. The program provides needy families around the world with livestock to help sustain them. Each class has a Piggy Bank and the children place their coins into the bank during their morning welcoming time, so we encourage families to talk to the kids about giving to others that don't have as much as we do and how their pennies make a big difference in peoples lives.

**The Youth Class:** This lively group of Middle School students meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays with Ray and JudyBeth Matuszewicz in the conference room. There are always lively discussions and energetic ideas going around the room. On the other Sundays the students will be able to attend the service or help with the Nursery Class.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Lets fill 20 Shoeboxes this year with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and Hope! Every year for the last 20 years we have held a collection of items used to fill the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes, along with 7 million others are sent around the world to needy children along with medical help, food and missionaries that spread the Gospel. Samaritan's Purse collects and delivers every one of these boxes. So please donate to our shoebox drive this year. Below you will find a list of needed items and thank you in advance for your generous and giving spirit! God Bless You.

**Hygiene Items:** bars of soap, face cloths, toothpaste and tooth brushes, hair brushes. No Liquids. Toys: small dolls, stuffed toys, matchbox cars and trucks, yo-yos School Supplies: small notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, coloring books, and small packages of Christmas cards Clothing: hats, mittens, small cotton dresses for toddlers (pillowcase dresses) socks, t-shirts, small knitted hand puppets. The possibilities are endless to help fill each box and our Church School Children will pack each box with care. We will continue collecting through November 12th. Our Donation Box is in the Chapel each week during church.

*Seek Joy!*

Kerry Mortland, Church School Superintendent



### Mission and Outreach

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to the school supply collection. So many cool backpacks among the other great stuff piled in our blue baskets. In Oct. M and O has its hands out again, this time we will be collecting toiletries and other items for the Veterans Hospital in Brockton. A list of needed items will be emailed to you and posted in the chapel. Thank you so much. We really are a giving and thoughtful congregation. Thanks, M and O



### Stewardship

Journey to Generosity, The Way of Jesus" is our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign (Matthew 9:35-10:23). When you commit to a pledge of your time, talent, money and any other resources, they go a long way and establish long term benefits. Just take a look around our Church and you can see how your resources are working. Our stain glass windows are being restored, the front of our historic building was repainted, and we are graciously donating funds to the victims of the recent devastating hurricanes.

Our Stewardship Campaign Luncheon will be held on October 22 after services. Please stay and join us to kick off a new year of giving to our Church and beyond. Please look for our materials online as they will be on the Church Website and in your emails as the pledge forms and information will be sent out electronically. Some paper copies will be available as well. We also have the ability to donate online from our Church Website, <http://eweyucc.org>. There is a Giving tab at the top of the Home page and then click on the Donate button.

The Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 18th this year. Letters have been mailed, donations have started coming in, and vendors are responding. The next few weeks we will be hitting the pavement and making calls to keep donations coming in for our Silent Auction. Sign- up sheets and posters will be available at the October 22nd luncheon. Please feel free to sign up and contribute time and talents at your will. Thank you and blessings in advance for all that you do!!!

Peace and Blessings,  
The Board of Stewardship



### Soup/Sandwich/Scripture

Soup and Scripture will meet Tuesday, October 17 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.. Reading Philippians 4:1-9.

These gatherings help us to connect with the scriptures and each other. We hope you can join us.



### Disaster Relief

Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims of the earthquake and hurricanes. Mission & Outreach and the Board of Deacons have voted to send monetary donations to aid in the recovery efforts. Church World Service (CWS) knows what and where assistance is needed. There has been and will continue to be a basket in the chapel for anyone who wishes to make a contribution that will be sent to CWS. M&O already sent one check for \$250 and will send another in the amount of \$500 along with your donations. Thank

you for helping our neighbors who have suffered such devastation and are in such great need.

Darian's pinky  
Muriel Smith

Papi Heelo (in PR)



**GILLETTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We have several opportunities to serve concessions and raise \$\$\$ for our Stained Glass Window Restoration Fund.

Please contact Donna #781-767-8162 if you can work any of these events.

|       |        |                           |
|-------|--------|---------------------------|
| 10/1  | Sun    | Pats v. Carolina Panthers |
| 10/22 | Sun pm | Pats v. Atlanta Falcons   |
| 10/29 | Sun    | Pats v. LA Rams           |
| 11/26 | Sun    | Pats v. Miami Dolphins    |
| 12/24 | Sun    | Pats v. Buffalo Bills     |
| 12/31 | Sun    | Pats v. NY Jets           |



**Notes from the Office**

Please have your November newsletter submissions to me by October 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

-Sara



**Upcoming Pastoral and Preacher Coverage**

- October 1 - Pastor Gretchen
- October 8 - Reverend Kimberly Murphy
- October 15 - Pastor Gretchen
- October 22 - Pastor Gretchen
- October 29 - Pastor Gretchen



**Birthdays**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Nevaeh Crowder    | October 12 |
| Fiona Hogan       | October 14 |
| Cormac Hogan, Jr. | October 14 |
| Kathleen Mosher   | October 21 |
| Piper Perette     | October 28 |
| Alannah Young     | October 29 |



|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Chickie               | Cheryl Thornton              |
| Rosalie               | Boyce Family                 |
| Michael F.            | Bette                        |
| Wendy                 | Debbie P.                    |
| Kathy & Andy          | Chris & Dick                 |
| Ritchie               | Jamie                        |
| Brenda M.             | Dave H.                      |
| Diane, Aria, & family | Dave                         |
| Shirley               | Tom Arthur                   |
| Leo                   | Jack                         |
| Houston               | Lynn Tenney                  |
| Servicemen & women    | First Responders             |
| Michael B.            | Jim Beulins                  |
| Dick Ward             | Lori & Gary                  |
| Peace                 | Little Tommy                 |
| Kettles Family        | Uncle Bing                   |
| Florida               | Powell Family                |
| Mike McCarthy         | Rose Dority                  |
| Joy, Harold, & George | Angela                       |
| Gigi                  | Mike & Debbie F. anniversary |
| Mike R.               | Michael B.                   |
| Michael K.            | Lillian Lew                  |